JOSEPH M. FREEDMAN
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
LYCEUM THEATRE BUILDING
MEMPHIS, TENN.

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Miss. Frances Levine,
70 Somer St.,
Brooklyn,
N. Y.

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March 27th, 1917

My darling toots:-

As you like that name, hereafter, I shall call you by that for you are my toots.

To begin with, sweetheart, I received your letters of the 20th + 22nd and let me tell you, when I looked at that little book "A thought of you", I was ashamed of myself, & didn't believe I would have the nerve enough to write to you, but the thought that it was you + my all, I had to write. Toots, I think I am a cur. Here you send me a nice little parcel + then a birthday card, + I only sent you my wishes in a letter, but, darling, it sure did ~~for~~ come from the heart. As soon as I can afford it, I'll make up for my failure to send you a little gift, but that failure was due not as a matter of fact, or that I don't love, but ~~bef~~ because if I wanted to send you a gift, I want it to something worth while. I would have sent you a card, too, but I couldn't find any appropriate, so didn't do it. Anyway, precious, you love me more than ever, don't you? I received the portal from your sister + mother & yours which were mailed on the 20th, on the 22nd, so you see they came just

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in time and believe me, my own little toots, I was happy for the rest of the day. I was in Court that day until 4 P.M. & when I came back I found your letter + book & the cards. That poem was just fine.

Oh, Frances how I wanted to be with you, even if it was only for that day. I was wondering what you were doing & how you spent your time. Make believe we wouldn't have a fine time. One that night, the 22nd, I was called to the bedside of an injured man. He told me I was recommended to him by another & that party is a friend of mine. The funniest thing about it is that this friend that recommended me is a partner of Goldberger's brother in the printing business. I was surprised in that Goldberger was recommended, but my friend told me that "you have my confidence & I'm going to do all I can to help you." Don't you think that was fine? I think I will land the case & if I do, I'll consider it as a birthday gift. If he settles the case with the defendants, I'll love out. That's the only fee I have. This morning I was told to appear in the Criminal

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Monday morning & take his hand ~~in~~ the defense of a woman accused of "larceny from the person." In plain words, "Stealing." Then my uncles' case is getting in proper form & out of that I expect some money & probably will ~~effects~~ — you. That is, I'll be with you, if I land the coin.

I had to smile, dearest, about your advice, in reference to my going to the theatre with someone. Honey, I like to go by myself if you are not with me for I want to think of you wherever I am, and when I'm in the theatre without any of my friends, I must believe you're sitting next to me & the music feels the heart songs that I can't sing or whisper into your ear.

This letter may be rambling at places, probably incoherent, but I am writing with a handicap. My thoughts are running at large. ~~I'm~~ They're ~~at~~ with you, & my pen can't go as fast as my thoughts, so you can see the disadvantage.

Well, I'm glad you got my

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picture & that you are pleased with it. Only I wish it were me that landed in N. Y. on that day instead of my equivalent, but believe me, toots, "we'se goin' to have some time when I will be with you, eh?"

Darling, I'll have to quit, but before I do, I want to tell you I didn't go to the banquet because my uncle called me up & said I should come to the store that night, which I did. I got there at 6^10 & quit at 11^45 P.M. Some work, toots, some work.

Well, I'll close now with all my love & kisses to my precious darling ~~tot~~ toots,

Lovingly
Joe

Tell your sisters & your mother I thank them very much for their birthday greeting.